

Palatine Pickler Page

July, 2015

Step Your Game Up A Rung

It's human nature to shy away from anything new or out of our comfort zone. That was the case with Thursday 6:00 p.m. and Sunday 4:00 p.m. play. Fortunately, these play times made it out of the iffy period and are well embraced now.

Our first ladder tournament is different. There's no time for a "wait and see" mindset. Initial response has been too small for a good ladder. PLEASE e-mail Darrell at drutter997@comcast.net to sign up for this half-court singles play. The June newsletter has the details. This half court game is not only fun, it is ideal for improving aim, dinks, lobs, and court position. Let's make it work. Several skeptics tried it and liked it during "beta" testing.

Begin With Tips

If you're new to the sport or aren't sure you know all you'd like about the game, sign up for the Beginners Clinic. It will be held at Locust Park on Morris at 6:00 p.m. Thursday, July 16th. To register e-mail Bear at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

Sign up for the singles ladder.

Put Your Face In The Book

Did you know? Your Palatine Picklers have a Facebook page. Just search for Palatine Picklers. Then see what is there, comment about what you see, and even post a photo or two. Of course, be sure to "Like" the page. You can even check the page to see how you're doing in the singles ladder play.

If you have questions Please e-mail them to Debbie at r.paneral@comcast.net.

Humbled At Hoffman



Last Tuesday our first PPC 55+ Travel Team played Hoffman. In 12 matches, we never had more than 1/3 the points of our hosts. However, players from both sides still had fun. It was the first time many of us saw what lays beyond our "banging" style of play.

Thanks to (in photo order) Hollis Pearlman, John Pihl, Joyce Pihl, Jan Robinson, Jeff Degner, Pam Lindberg, Holly Goldsmith, Bear Shatwell, Neal Harris, Dan Robinson, Norm Zwass, and (left early) Mary Brinkman.

We WILL field more travel teams, but we'll do a better job matching skill levels.

Wheeling has a team, and Park Ridge is forming one. If interested in playing travel, e-mail Bear at aokbarry@yahoo.com.

LAST SHIRT ORDER ALMOST READY TO PLACE

47 Palatine Pickler shirts have been printed. Order by e-mailing Bear aokbarry@yahoo.com now, or wait until the indoor season, for the next order. They're only \$10 for mens (generous) sizes.

Psst...e-mail Darrell now to sign up for the singles ladder.

Do You Realize Just How Big This Is ?

Think about it. A year or two ago, 90% of us had never heard of pickleball. Palatine Pickleball Club was founded in late February. That's barely four months ago, and we already have 169 members. We welcome newbies. Of course, it's a hardship for those of us who are a bit more experienced, but the more who join us, the better our bargaining position with the Palatine Park District becomes. In other words there is strength in numbers. We know we'll want more courts, lighted courts, more indoor playing opportunities, tennis courts lined for dual purpose, etc. The bigger we are the louder our voice.

At Sycamore and Locust some of the overflow players play "short court, kitchenless pickleball" on the tennis court. It's better than sitting or standing around just waiting for a pickleball court to open, but it's not ideal. We'll talk to the Park District this month to see if they can squeeze lining those two courts into their budget. It would increase by 50% our playing opportunities Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, Thursday evening (from 6:00) and Sunday afternoon (from 4:00).

Shirtless Shirt Owners

The trunk of my little blue picklemobile still contains a number of shirts from our first two orders. These belong to Kevin, Marti, Lauren, Keith, Linda, Lee, and Steve. Though I may head to Locust when the crowd grows a half hour after play begins at Sycamore, I'm always at Sycamore at the onset of each play time. You can meet me there then. If a Sycamore rendezvous isn't in your cards, e-mail me. I've met one shirt owner at Falcon and am willing to drive to a mutually convenient location. I just don't want to set a precedent of home deliveries. If you ordered on or after June 18th, your shirt is among those I'll order later this week.

We're On Record

Probably each one of us answers the following question at least once a week: What's pickleball? I know you give a very enthusiastic response. If you're speaking with someone who lives in the area and could benefit from belonging to PPC, please give him/her/them my e-mail address ... again it is aokbarry@yahoo.com. You can also have them check out what we do by sending them to Falcon. Right at the front desk, just ask for the Palatine Pickleball Club binder. Except for the day or two I bring it home to update it, it's always there and has almost everything we do ... bylaws, all newsletters, etc.

More Options For Play

Hope you've had a fantastic 4th and are looking forward to a summer of elevating your pickleball play. Just as an FYI, I'll pass on a few other places you could play. You could play for free indoors at Arlington's Pioneer Park on Mon, Wed, & Fri 9-12. There's also outdoor play in Arlington at Volz Park, near the Post Office every weekday at 9 a.m. More indoor play can be found in Elk Grove at The Pavilion off Biesterfield where six beautiful courts await those who want to play Saturdays 9-12. Indoor play (better confirm this one) may be found in the Schaumburg Rec Center beside the airport Thurs 12-3 and Fri 6-9 p.m. Wheeling's new courts off Wolf a block north of Dundee are nice, although the fence is way too close to the back lines. There is a charge to play there, and they aren't always open. Call the Park District for times.

Seymour's Lincolnshire Workshops

You may recall the letter from Seymour Rifkind that was included in the June PPC newsletter. I'd like to pass on what little feedback I've received regarding those workshops. As suggested they target players who are serious enough about the sport to drill, drill, and drill. Each day is its own event ... there's no having to take Class 1 before Class 2. Each is \$10. Those who have attended with whom I've spoken were glad they went and will go again, maybe once a week. You will learn nuances of the game to which you've likely not been exposed. I'm the type who wants to play golf, not go to a driving range. I'm as addicted to pickleball as most of us, but I'm not unhappy with my enjoyable mediocrity...and have difficulty seeing the clearly superior (see Travel Team results) dink game being as enjoyable as our Palatinian "banger" game. Still, for \$10 I'm sure I'll learn something which will help my game without drastically changing it. In other words, I'll give it a try. Why not join me?

Explanations Necessary On The Ladder Tournament

Last evening and this morning at Sycamore I learned why so few players have registered for the singles ladder tournament...jumping to an incorrect conclusion or two. Let's correct misperceptions.

- 1) There is no time or place this tournament takes place. You'll set your own.
- 2) It is far from a "one and done" event. It will go on all summer and into the fall.
- 3) You will not be facing the running challenge you've imagined. It's played on half a court. You will defend an area only 10' wide by 22' deep. Foot speed is not that great an asset here.
- 4) Participants are not ranked or seeded. By the end of the summer the better (at THIS half court game) players will be on the top rungs of the ladder, and the weaker ones the bottom. It's determined purely by how well you play over the entire summer.
- 5) Results of games are not reported, UNLESS the challenger wins.
- 6) If you want to move up the ladder, you must challenge the player on the rung above you OR the player on the rung above that one. Darrell will e-mail the current ladder weekly.
- 7) The positions on the initial ladder are determined by a random drawing, nothing else.
- 8) A game will likely last only ten to twelve minutes. Don't inconvenience yourself. Plan to play 15 minutes before any regularly scheduled open play.

That covers things that have been misunderstood. So many players at Sycamore have heard it's good to move up to the kitchen line but still don't. This half court singles game WILL teach the value of that court position. Since you and your opponent will be in such close proximity with very small "passing" lanes, you WILL have to work on dinking and lobbing. These are skills which will help your full court game immensely.

I said I'm not big on practice and drills. Guess what. That's exactly what this half court singles game is ... only it's nicely disguised as a competition. So register NOW. Just e-mail Darrell at drutter997@aol.com saying you want a rung on the ladder.

Pics Please

Needing to fill this space, after adding the last minute story on the next page, I thought I'd ask a favor. Please take some photos when you're at, but not on, a Palatine pickleball court. Then e-mail them to me. I'd like to include a few pics in future newsletters or announcements. Thanks.

Are YOU Female & Between 55 & 59 ?

I had just saved this newsletter and was getting ready to start sending it out in batches to you, when I received a news bulletin. There is only one team registered for the ladies 55-59 doubles event in the 6 County Senior Olympics. This takes place on Hoffman's outdoor courts on Tuesday, July 14th at 8:00 a.m. Although registration is closed, Bill Graba who's in charge of the pickleball events said he'd welcome more teams to this bracket, rather than creating a 10-year age group. If you've lived between 55 and 59 years, are presently female, and do not have a morning conflict on July 14th, please e-mail me **immediately**. I'll play partner broker and hook you up with another Picklers to play in this truly fun event.

In Summary

* If you want a Tshirt, notify Bear today * Let Bear know, if you're attending the Beninners Clinic on July 16th * Register with Darrell for the ladder tournament today * Visit us on Facebook * Let Bear know, if you're a lady who's 55-59 *

Thanks for reading...

**Bear Shatwell
PPC President**